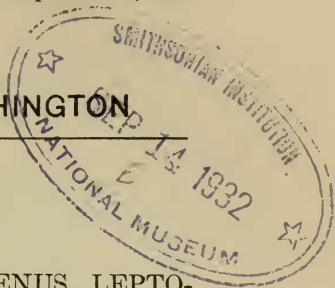


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

## A NEW WORM SNAKE OF THE GENUS LEPTOTYPHLOPS FROM GUERRERO, MEXICO.

BY ARTHUR LOVERIDGE.

The Museum of Comparative Zoölogy recently received from Mexico a consignment of nearly five hundred reptiles and amphibians which had been collected by the well known naturalist, Mr. W. W. Brown, and presented to the museum by Dr. Thomas Barbour.

While identifying this material I came across four very large worm snakes which fail to agree with any known species and which, therefore, I propose naming

***Leptotyphlops maximus*, sp. nov.**

*Type*.—Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, No. 33,604. An adult ♂ from between 4,000 and 6,000 feet at Chilpancingo, State of Guerrero, Mexico, collected by W. W. Brown between January and June, 1932.

*Paratypes*.—Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Nos. 33,605-33,607 with the same data as the type, one specimen having the head and body badly damaged.

*Diagnosis*.—Apparently most nearly related to *Leptotyphlops dulcis* (Baird & Girard) with which it agrees in the following characters: Snout not hooked; a supraocular, the ocular being separated from its fellow, on the top of the head, by three shields; ocular bordering the lip between the first and second labials, being separated from the lower part of the nasal by the first labial which does not reach the eye and which is narrower than the lower portion of the ocular and smaller than the lower part of the completely divided nasal; 5 lower labials; 14 midbody scale-rows; anal large.

It differs from *dulcis* in its larger size and proportions, the diameter being included in the total length 37 times (from 37 to 43 in the paratypes) as against 44 to 60 times in the more slender *dulcis*; the length of the tail is included in the total length 21 times (from 19 to 25 in the paratypes) as against 17 to 20 times in *dulcis*. Different coloring.

The new species differs from other Mexican species as follows: From

*L. albifrons* in the very small supraocular which is smaller than the frontal and very widely separated from the first upper labial which does not reach the eye; possessing 5 instead of 6 lower labials; its large Typhlops-like appearance and size which in length as well as in diameter exceeds any measurements for a *Leptotyphlops* given by Boulenger (1893, Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus., i., pp. 59-71) or represented in the large series in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

From *L. myopica* (Garman) it differs in possessing only one labial anterior to the ocular, as well as by diameter, etc.

From *L. humilis* (Baird & Girard) it is widely removed by the presence of a supraocular and other characters.

*Coloration.*—Above, uniformly plumbeus except for extreme tip of tail which is whitish. Below, white, which extends to the lower portion of the rostral and upper labials, the latter being partly dusky.

*Measurements.*—Type ♂. Total length 300 mm. Length of tail 14 mm. Diameter at midbody 8 mm. Paratypes. Total lengths 270-300 mm. Length of tails 12-15 mm. Diameters at midbody 37-43 mm.